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## Setting the Scene Game Preview

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# SETTING THE SCENE

## Game Preview

**Site:** Hanner Fieldhouse (3,897)

**Tipoff:** 7 p.m.

**Listen:** GS Sports Network (pregame show starts a half hour before tipoff)

**Watch:** ESPN+

**Series:** Tied 7-7, W3

**Last meeting:** 2/8/20, W 86-79 (away)

## Probable Starters:

#2 - Elijah McCadden

#3 - Ike Smith

#10 - Calvin Wishart

#13 - Quan Jackson

#53 - Isaiah Crawley

- Fifth-seeded Georgia Southern plays host to eighth-seeded Louisiana in a Sun Belt Tournament second-round game. Tipoff is set for 7 p.m. Monday, March 9, in Hanner Fieldhouse.
- It is the first conference tournament game in Hanner Fieldhouse since the 1992 TAAC Championship Game, a 92-82 Eagle win over Georgia State.
- The winner of the contest travels to Atlanta to take on fourth-seeded Georgia State at 7 p.m. Wednesday, March 11.
- Georgia Southern tied for fourth in the Sun Belt standings and has finished in the top-5 in each of its six seasons in the league. The Eagles are one of just two Sun Belt teams (UTA) and 26 teams in the country that have won 10-plus league games in each of the last six seasons. The Eagles are 70-44 in Sun Belt games in their six seasons, the second-best record in the league during that time span (Georgia State 73-41).
- Georgia Southern is playing in its 40th Division I conference tournament this year. GS is 31-35 all-time in conference tourneys, 3-5 in the Sun Belt Tournament, 21-11 as the higher seed and 4-7 as the fifth seed.
- GS owns a 5-2 all-time record in conference tournament games in Hanner and a 13-6 record in postseason games in the building (5-2 conf tourney, 7-2 NAIA tourney, 1-1 Division II tourney and 0-1 CBI).
- The Eagles are 70-26 in Hanner Fieldhouse (10-4 this season) under Mark Byington and 41-16 in Sun Belt contests.
- The top two Sun Belt seeds have earned a bye into the semifinals in New Orleans (No. 1 Little Rock and No. 2 South Alabama), while seeds 3-8 are hosting tournament games as teams attempt to play their way to New Orleans. The winner of each game will advance to play on the home court of a higher seed until the semifinal round at the Smoothie King Center.
- The second-round, quarterfinal and semifinal games are set for live coverage on ESPN+ with Sunday's championship game slated for live coverage on ESPN2.
- Quan Jackson was named second-team All-Sun Belt, while Ike Smith earned third-team honors. It's the second straight season Jackson has been named All-Sun Belt (third team in 2018-19) and the second time Smith has been recognized (2016-17 first team).
- The Eagles won both regular-season games against Louisiana this season.
- The Eagles are 5-5 in games decided by five points or less, and 10 of their 20 Sun Belt games were decided by

six points or less.

- The Eagles are 2-3 in their last five and coming off a 76-75 loss to Arkansas State on a pair of free throws with 1.8 seconds left last Tuesday.
- The Eagles rank 40th in the country and first in the Sun Belt in steals (8.0/gm), 32nd nationally in turnovers forced (15.9/gm) and 30th in turnover margin (+2.9).
- GS ranks third in the Sun Belt in fewest fouls (16.5/gm) and fourth in fewest turnovers (113.0/gm). The Eagles are second in the league in blocked shots per game (3.8); Simeon Carter ranks third (1.4/gm).
- The Eagles rank third in the Sun Belt in total 3-point field goal attempts (759), and GS is tied for third in the league in 3-pointers made per game (8.0).
- Louisiana advanced to the Sun Belt Tournament second round by topping Arkansas State 73-66 Saturday afternoon in the Cajundome.
- The Ragin' Cajuns are 3-2 in their last five.
- Louisiana is 3-11 on the road this season and finished 3-7 in road Sun Belt games.
- Ragin' Cajun freshman Mylik Wilson was named the Sun Belt Freshman of the Year.